

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

other name/site number: Kiwanis Chapel

2. Location

street & number: 17863 Beaver Creek Road
Beaver Creek County Park

(Camp Kiwanis)

not for publication: n/a

city/town: HAVRE

vicinity: n/a

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Hill

code: zip code: 59501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

(☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property: _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Number of Resources within Property

Category of Property: Building

Contributing

Noncontributing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the
National Register: n/a1 buildings sites structures objects1 Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RELIGION/chapel

USED AS A MEETING HALL AND LATER ON AS A CHAPEL

Current Functions: VACANT/NOT IN USE DUE TO NEEDED
REPAIRS

7. Description

Architectural Classification: OTHER/vernacular

Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE PIERS

walls: WOOD: LOG

roof: WOOD: Shingle on building

LOG: on porch

other:

Narrative Description

The largest owned county park in the state of Montana, Beaver Creek Park is located in north-central Montana. The entrance of the park is located 10 miles south of the town of Havre. It is located along the north slopes of the Bears Paw Mountains. This area displays a wide range of geological formations including glacial deposits and volcanic strata, and metamorphic and sedimentary rocks in which fossils can be found. Beaver Creek, a north-south trending creek, runs the length of the park. There are two man-made reservoirs (upper and lower) located just north of Camp Kiwanis, which borders Highway 234. These reservoirs are popular fishing areas stocked with Rainbow and Brook Trout, Walleye and Northern Pike, Bass and Perch. Several smaller drainages in the park empty into Beaver Creek. The park is approximately one mile wide and seventeen miles long and consists of over 10,000 acres. Shambo Mountain is less than one mile south of Camp Kiwanis. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall is located at Camp Kiwanis which is centrally located within the park, about nine miles from the north park entrance. The building is located approximately 120 ft. east of Beaver Creek.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** n/a**Significant Person(s):** n/a**Cultural Affiliation:** n/a**Areas of Significance:** ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION**Period(s) of Significance:** CA. 1930-1937 Meeting Hall

CA. 1938-1960 Chapel

Significant Dates: 1930**Architect/Builder:** unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of historic Places under Criterion A for its historic association with entertainment and recreation development in Hill County in north-central Montana. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall is located at Camp Kiwanis within Beaver Creek County Park, the largest county owned park in Montana. The Park is ten miles south of the town of Havre and has been an important recreational diversion since it was first established in 1916. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall, the first building constructed in the park, was built in 1930, after the creation of Beaver Creek Playground, later known as Beaver Creek County Park. Camp Kiwanis was originally constructed for the recreation and enjoyment of disadvantaged children. Throughout its history, the Kiwanis Meeting Hall has served both secular and non-secular organizations. It was the first and only building in the park until 1935 when the Civilian Conservation Corps established a presence about one mile to the north where the Boy Scouts camp is now located. The period of significance for the Kiwanis Meeting hall is from its construction, around 1930, through the 1950s when the erection of additional campground buildings reduced the overall use of the Meeting Hall. Beaver Creek County Park retains much of the character that inspired its creation nearly 100 years ago and the Kiwanis Meeting Hall is an integral component of the landscape; it too retains much of its original character due to its location and setting. Physically, the Meeting Hall is much as it was when it was first constructed.

9. Major Bibliographic References

(see continuation sheet)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property:****UTM References:** **Zone** 12 (NAD 83) **Easting** 599032 **Northing** 5349653 **Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):** T29N R16E, NW¼ NE¼ NW¼ of Section 9

Verbal Boundary Description The Kiwanis Meeting Hall, located at Camp Kiwanis, is approximately 450 feet east of Highway 234. Beaver Creek, which runs along the east side of the highway, is located approximately 120' west of the building. The secondary road that runs through Camp Kiwanis, is located approximately 70' west of Beaver Creek or 50' east of the building.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the location of the building and the nearby surrounding landscape that helped demarcate the Kiwanis Meeting Hall location when it was originally constructed. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall is bordered on one side by Beaver Creek. A secondary road for the camp circles around the west and south side of the building. There is a large embankment located to the north of the building. Large Cottonwood trees create a canopy around the site as well as collection of bushes that all thrive due to the close proximity of the creek. Although more recent buildings from Camp Kiwanis are located to the north they are somewhat hidden due to the topography and natural landscaping.

11. Form Prepared By**name/title:** BECKI MILLER & GARY WILSON**organization:** HAVRE/HILL COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**date:** August 2008**street & number:** PO BOX 324 **telephone:** 406.376.3228**city or town:** HAVRE **state:** MT **zip code:** 59501**Property Owner****name/title:** HILL COUNTY**street & number:** 315 4TH STREET**telephone:** 406.265.5481**city or town:** HAVRE **state:** MT**zip code:** 59501

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Description of Resources

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall (one contributing building)

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall is a 24 ft. 4 in. wide by 38 ft. 4 in. long east-west oriented, rectangular, gable roof one story building with a porch and main entrance that faces west towards Beaver Creek. A 14 ft. 2 in. by 14 ft. 2 in. addition has been constructed on the east end of the building, the construction date is unknown. The original portion of the building and the addition display construction that is similar in terms of materials and appearance. The only difference is seen in the construction of the roof. The roof of the original building is supported by a dimensional lumber ridge beam running the entire length of interior in an east-west orientation with three Kingpost trusses which are clad with 6-8 inch diameter halved logs. At first appearance they seem to be actual log trusses. The addition also has a dimensional lumber east-west oriented ridge beam with halved logs on either side, but there are no trusses, due to the smaller span. The roof, a 6:12 pitch, consists of halved logs with the radius side of the log facing the interior; the halved logs serve to conceal the decking for the wood shakes. The north side of the roof has several areas where the shakes have become saturated and moss is accumulating.

The interior roof trusses are supported by posts on the north and south perimeter walls. The walls, infilled between the posts, have a unique construction consisting of 9-10 inch diameter halved logs which are staggered vertically with one layer on the interior and one on the exterior. These slabs are staggered back to back so the joints are concealed.

Fenestration includes three paired nine-light windows in the south elevation, three paired four-light windows in the north elevation, two paired six-light windows in the east elevation and two paired nine-light windows in the west elevation. All windows are single pane with wood frames and are covered by exterior screens. All windows are operable casements with the exception of the east windows that are awning windows, and occur on the addition. Concrete was used as chinking on the exterior sills of the windows; the chinking is in poor condition and is no longer effectively serving as a moisture barrier. A six-light wood door is in the west elevation and a five-panel wood door is in the south elevation. All window, door and fascia trim is painted yellow.

The building rests on footings consisting of concrete that was poured in wooden buckets with metal rims. Remnants of the buckets still remain on a few of the footings. Six east-west running log beams support the floor which is covered by 2 in. wide plank flooring.

A porch is attached to the west elevation and is covered with a shed roof. The roof is in extremely poor condition and consists of construction similar to the walls with alternating halved log slabs. The porch is supported by four single posts that consist of each side veneered with 12 inch diameter log slabs. The porch is enclosed with a low half-wall consisting of split rough-hewn logs. There appears to be no concrete footings supporting the porch. A temporary plywood ramp providing access onto the porch and to the main entrance door of the building is placed where stairs were originally located.

Electrical lines enter the building at the west end of the south wall, and fluorescent fixtures are mounted to the ceiling. More period appropriate fixtures need to replace the current fluorescent fixtures.

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Integrity

Although the Kiwanis Meeting Hall has been modified slightly since its original construction, the changes have been in-kind and are complimentary to the original building design and construction. The Meeting Hall reflects the appearance and character of an early community-erected building that was meant to serve the surrounding area. The construction style is entirely unique in the area with no other buildings known that are similar in appearance. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall retains all seven aspects of integrity including location, workmanship, design, and materials. Although several later buildings have been introduced to Camp Kiwanis, these are located north of the Meeting Hall. The amount of vegetation around the meeting Hall and the topography precludes viewing the intrusive elements allowing integrity of feeling, association, and setting to remain intact.

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History of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall

Native American Occupation

The contemporary history of North Central Montana begins with the North American Indian. There were several tribes that traversed and inhabited the area between the Missouri and Saskatchewan River regions. The earlier tribes included the Salish, Kootenai and Shoshoni.¹

The Blackfoot Confederacy, Piegan, Bloods, Siksika, and altered Gros Ventre and Sarci forced the earlier tribes south and west when they acquired firearms from the military alliance of the Plains Cree, Plains Chippewa and Assiniboine.² By treaty, the Blackfoot Confederacy, Gros Ventre and the River Crow inhabited the north country from the Rocky Mountains to the confluence of the Milk and Missouri Rivers, where the Assiniboine were located. By 1870, these tribes were threatened by a large invasion of Lakota Sioux. The Gros Ventre, Assiniboine and River Crow were directly in their path.³

The first Indian agency for the Gros Ventre, River Crow, Lower Assiniboine and Santee Sioux was established at Fort Browning in 1868, located near Peoples Creek on the Milk River near present day Dodson. Meanwhile, the Blackfeet had a series of agencies further west, starting at Fort Benton and ending on Badger Creek near Browning.

Because of attacks by the Lakota Sioux, the treaty Indians were not able to procure their treaty goods at Fort Browning and an agency was built at Fort Belknap on the Milk River, just south of present day Chinook. The Santee Sioux went to the Fort Peck agency further east on the Missouri River. The River Crow decided to join their brothers, the Mountain Crow, near present day Hardin in southeastern Montana in the Yellowstone River basin. The Piegans remained in Montana while their brother tribes and the Sarci settled in Alberta, Canada.⁴

The Gros Ventre, then, were the principle legal tribe in the area between the Milk River and Bears Paw Mountains, although they were subject to attacks by their enemies, which would include their former allies, the Blackfeet. As the Gros Ventre continued to shrink in number due to tribal conflict and disease, they allowed a Canadian band of Upper Assiniboine, a former enemy, to join them.⁵

Except American and Canadian traders along the Milk and Missouri Rivers, few whites had traveled in this area before the arrival of the military in 1879. Prior to the arrival of the military, a government railroad survey team came through in 1853, looking for a favorable route to the Pacific Ocean. A major route had already been established from Fort Union, Dakota Territory, across northern Montana and down to Fort Benton. The group was impressed with the flat country leading to the Rocky Mountains. They traveled around the Bears Paw Mountains shooting game and looking for gold. Perhaps they camped near the present day Beaver Creek Park.

¹ Ewers, John C., *The Blackfeet, Raiders of the Plains*, Norman University of Oklahoma Press, 1958, 30.

² Ewers, John C., *Ethnological Report on the Blackfeet and Gros Ventre*, Tribes of Indian Lands in Northern Montana, 28-41.

³ Ibid, 138-139.

⁴ Miller, Don and Stan Cohen, *Military and Trading Posts of Montana*, Missoula, Pictorial Historic Publishing Company, 1978, 16.

⁵ Ewers, 139-141.

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A route along the Milk River, just north of Beaver Creek Park, was established by the Steven's party, which was commissioned by the US government to survey possible transportation routes to the west. This trail became the route for traders and gold seekers in the 1860's from Minnesota to Fort Benton.⁶

The establishment of a trading post with an Indian agent at Fort Belknap in 1871 reduced some of the problems associated with Lakota Sioux attacks against the Gros Ventres, although there was some 6,000 Sioux located in the Milk River country. The inter-tribal disputes in association with the increased Euro-American presence led the military to believe that the construction of a military post was necessary in the area. This belief garnered more serious consideration when the Battle of the Little Bighorn occurred in 1876; after the battle, the large numbers of Sioux, Arapaho and Northern Cheyenne were able to leave and disperse before the rest of the troops could arrive. Colonel Nelson Miles from Fort Keogh, pursued the non-reservation peoples all over eastern Montana, until the hostile Sioux under Sitting Bull, went north to Canada. Approximately 6,000 relocated north of the international border between Fort Walsh and Wood Mountain, across from present day Havre to Glasgow.⁷

The US Army was busy keeping Indian bands, which had relocated from North Central Montana to Canada, from hunting in Northern Montana as well as the Missouri River region. Then in 1877, members of non-reservation Nez Perce Indians led by Chief Joseph attempted to reach Canada, instead of being forced on a reservation in Idaho. A small number made it to Sitting Bull's camp in Canada, while the majority were captured or killed at Snake Creek, south of present day Chinook, 20 miles east of Beaver Creek Park. The Nez Perce travelled 1,800 miles in 75 days with no more than 250 warriors. Traveling with them were 184 women, 147 children and 2,000 horses.⁸

Because the US War Department viewed Sitting Bull as a magnet for other 'hostiles', and because there were a large number of Canadian Indians hunting the last of the buffalo in North Central Montana, the last of the Sioux War forts, Fort Assiniboine, was built on the Gros Ventre lands, allowed by the Judith River Treaty of 1855. In the spring of 1879, the military arrived in the Milk River country, filling three boatloads. Soon to follow were civilian workers, US Quartermaster Corps workers and a group of Metis people (mixed blood) from the Red River Valley.⁹ The military was forewarned of the troubles they faced when the 18th Infantry was ambushed from Round or Box Elder Butte and suffered substantial casualties by Plains Cree. The military hurried on, not knowing who had attacked them.¹⁰

The military reservation was originally composed of 700,000 acres and included much of the Bears Paw range and the area that presently encompasses Rocky Boy Reservation. The fort was constructed to accommodate ten companies and measured approximately one-half mile by one-third of a mile in size. The local Indians looked on in amazement as the brick buildings went up, as if they had sprung up magically from the ground. Sitting Bull wished to destroy Fort Assiniboine, but the odds were too great, as approximately 500 soldiers with better weapons protected the fort. The soldiers eventually clashed with Sitting Bull as he attempted to cross the border back into Montana. The army drove the last bands of combined Cree, Chippewa and Assiniboine back across the border into Canada, by 1884.¹¹ However, after

⁶ Burlingame, M.G. and K. R. Toole, *A History of Montana*, New York, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1957, 88-89.

⁷ Utlay, Robert G., *Frontier Regulars: The United States Army and The Indian*, 1866-1890, chapter 15.

⁸ Beal, Morrill D., *I will Fight No More Forever, Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War*, New York, Ballantine Books, 1976, 233-265.

⁹ Montana, *The Magazine of Western History*, Nickolas Hardenean, *Brick Stronghold of the Border*, April 1979, 56-57.

¹⁰ Bell, John T., *Ne-cot-ta*, unpublished manuscript told by retired Cavalry Sergeant John T. Bell, article also appeared in Bismarck, ND Daily Tribune, May 6, 1879.

¹¹ Annual Reports of the US War Department, 1882-1885, National Archives Library, Washington D.C.

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the Metis Rebellion of Resistance of 1885 a number of Big Bear's people returned to the area where they worked at Fort Assinniboine and later spread out around the garbage dumps in Montana.¹²

The future Beaver Creek County Park was contained within the military reservation, which originally encompassed 700,000 acres but was later reduced to 220,000 acres. At Sawmill Gulch, located at Sucker Creek, which flows into Beaver Creek, the army operated a log cutting mill. Originally, it was thought the logs would be floated down the creek to the fort but due to beaver dams along the way this was not possible and the logs had to be transported by wagon. The future park provided the military at Fort Assinniboine with water and wood as well as recreation and training areas. By the turn of the century, Fort Assinniboine included over 100 buildings and was compared in size and importance to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.¹³

Later, the fort and the railroad would provide the mercantile incentive for the town of Havre to be established as "Bull Hook" in 1890 (incorporated in 1903). During the homesteading era and heavily promoted by the railroad, many settlers arrived to North Central Montana.

The army conducted military exercises in the fall, in the vicinity of Mount Otis, west of Beaver Creek. At present day 'Dillon's Bottoms' campsite, which is located 4 miles south of the present day Camp Kiwanis, the soldiers had set up a camp. Also, there was a permanent canteen for use of the officers and their wives. There even had the enlisted men bring fish to the canteen in canvas bags from Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Missouri River.

Frederick, Remington, famous author/painter, wrote and illustrated an article for the Cosmopolitan magazine in February of 1897 about the troops stationed at Fort Assinniboine, the famed 'Black Tenth Calvary Regiment' that had fought Indian wars in Kansas, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. One of their officers was Lieutenant John J. Pershing, later General of the Army during World War I. The Tenth Calvary left Fort Assinniboine in 1898 for the Spanish American War in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. A large number of war wary soldiers left at the fort returned in 1902 for "R and R", but few returned after that. Fort Assinniboine was closed in 1911 due to a lack of assigned troops (who were not reassigned after the war) and significant damage that had occurred to the water tank building located at the Fort earlier in the year.¹⁴

The Fort lands were subsequently transferred to the US Department of the Interior. The Plains Cree (under Little Bear) and the Chippewa (under Rocky Boy) continued to be a problem for the state and federal governments. Round-ups were conducted by the military and tribes were relocated back to Canada. This plan failed but the problem had to be resolved. Neither the Canadian nor United States government wanted to claim these tribes or find a permanent home for them. The two bands were inseparable, due to intermarriage although they kept their separate identities. Little Bear couldn't be given any land due to his involvement in killings in Canada in the past so the land was awarded to Rocky Boy (or Stone Child) and other landless Indians. The land was located in the Bears Paw Mountains. By 1916, all North American Indians of the Missouri and Saskatchewan River regions had been placed on reservations.¹⁵

¹² Hill County Bicentennial Commission, *Grit, Guts & Gusto "A History of Hill County"*, Bear Paw Printers, 1976, 16-17.

¹³ Montana, *The Magazine of Western History*, Nickolas Hardenean, *Brick Stronghold of the Border*, April 1979, 56.

¹⁴ Ibid, 57.

¹⁵ Hill County Bicentennial Commission, *Grit, Guts & Gusto "A History of Hill County"*, Bear Paw Printers, 1976, 26-27.

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Regional Historic Context

In 1882, James J. Hill came west to visit his friend, Paris Gibson of Great Falls. After returning to St. Paul, Minnesota, he sought permission from the government to build a railroad through Montana and continue west to the coast. Permission was granted in 1887 and construction began in near Minot, North Dakota. The St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad changed its name to the Great Northern Railway in 1890. The construction of the railroad passed within less than two miles of Fort Assiniboin on September 6, 1887. The railroad proceeded onto Great Falls, Helena and Butte to connect with the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1890, the railroad division point was located by James J. Hill at the location known as Bull Hook Bottoms, present day Havre, and continued across Montana through Maria's Pass, Northern Idaho and Western Washington. The railroad reached Everett, Washington in 1893.¹⁶ Hill did not approve of the current name 'Bull Hook' so a committee representing local citizens met to discuss a new name for the town. Since most of the citizens were French they decided on Le Havre (The Harbor), thus Havre was born.¹⁷

The arrival of the railroad proved very beneficial to not only the stockmen along the route but also to homesteaders coming west in search of land. The railroad stimulated growth and agricultural development of the region as never before. Homesteaders claimed nearly every half section along the railroad. It was a direct result of the railroad that towns such as Havre came into being. Havre was originally known as a town for wild behavior and its most influential citizen was Shorty Young, a man with a larger-than-life reputation.¹⁸ The behavior of the town was so bad that Hill threatened to move the railroad works out of town if conditions did not improve. The net result of this threat was that the town fathers merely paid dispatchers along the railroad to warn them when Hill was coming to town so they could clean up the town before his arrival.¹⁹ During the 1910s, the population of the area greatly increased due to the development of dryland farming and the adoption of the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909.²⁰ During one month in 1913, approximately 1600 homestead claims were filed in Havre.²¹ The dramatic population increase however, soon waned as the drought of 1917-1920 severely impacted local agriculture, resulting in the departure of many homesteaders. The homesteading movement itself continued until around 1930, but the arrival of the Great Depression and another severe drought ended the immigration.

Hill County was not created until February 28, 1912. This area was previously included in Chouteau County which stretched from Malta to Shelby and from Ft. Benton to Canada.²² The name 'Hill' was chosen in honor of James J. Hill, who founded the Great Northern Railroad.²³ Havre became the county seat.

Origin of Beaver Creek County Park

With the number of people that entered and were living in Havre and Hill County, there was a natural need for some type of recreation. Beaver Creek County Park's beginnings are linked to the former Fort Assiniboin military reservation that originally encompassed 700,000 acres that included: a timber/water reserve in the Bears Paw Mountains, coal fields

¹⁶ Hill County Bicentennial Commission, *Grit, Guts & Gusto "A History of Hill County"*, Bear Paw Printers, 1976, 52.

¹⁷ Wilson, Gary A. *Honky-Tonk Town "Havre's Bootlegging Days"*. High-Line Books, Havre, MT. 1985, 7.

¹⁸ D.N.Vichorek *The Hi-Line, Profiles of a Montana Land*. (Helena, MT; Farcountry Press, 1994): 82.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ M.G. Burlingame and K.R. Toole, *A History of Montana* (New York, NY; Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1957): 297.

²¹ *The Hi-Line, Profiles of a Montana Land*, 83.

²² Hill County Bicentennial Commission, 90.

²³ Wilson, 28.

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located north of present day Havre, and hay fields near present day Big Sandy. Fort Assiniboine, located approximately 16 miles to the northwest of Camp Kiwanis, was vacated in 1911, and the post transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The former fort holdings were broken down in 1916 as follows:

- The state of Montana purchased 2,000 acres and the fort buildings with plans to open a college and agricultural station.
- The Chippewa, under Chief Rocky Boy was given 56,035 acres in the Bears Paw Mountains. This reservation was also home to many other landless Indians in Montana.
- A 1 mile wide x 17 mile long park called Beaver Creek Playground (future Beaver Creek County Park) was established along the northern slopes of the Bears Paw Mountains. This consisted of +/-440 acres of watershed (upper and lower reservoirs) and 8880 acres for park grounds. The City of Havre was designated as the custodian of the land. Since the city could not afford to maintain the park, they allowed local organizations, such as the Kiwanis, to make improvements to the park for the enjoyment and recreation of the residents of Havre and Hill County. In 1953, the land was sold to Hill County and the name was changed to Beaver Creek County Park.
- The Herron Homestead located north of fort buildings was given to the family since they were vital in supplying the fort with necessary milk and eggs during its period of operation.
- The remaining land was opened for settlement to the public.²⁴

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall

The Kiwanis was founded in Detroit, Michigan, on January 21, 1915. The Kiwanis clubs were originally focused on business networking, though a transition to assisting those in need occurred during the early years of the clubs formation. By 1919, the organization had changed its focus from business to service and by 1916, the Kiwanis became an international organization.²⁵ The local charter club of Kiwanis in Havre was established on November 23, 1923.²⁶

In 1930, the Kiwanis Club of Havre was granted a 40 acre camp in the Beaver Creek Playground in the Bears Paw Mountains. The purpose of the camp was for the entertainment of disadvantaged children and children groups from the 4-H, Girl & Boy Scouts, churches, FFA, and school age children in general. Around 1930, the Kiwanis club members constructed "a pine slab building" as a meeting place for the various community organizations; a swimming pool with rock walls was also constructed at this time. The lumber for the Meeting Hall was purchased and shipped from Glacier National Park. It was shipped free of charge by the Great Northern Railway to Havre and trucked to the park area. The cost of the lumber was \$400 which was raised by the Kiwanis Club and the construction was done with donated labor. Four prominent businessmen were instrumental in the park: L.K. Deblin, E.C. Carrath, James Hollend, Sr., and E.T. Broadwater.²⁷

This was the only building in the park until a federal program to employ people during the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), was established at the park in 1935. The CCC built housing for the workers, developed a fish hatchery with two ponds, and built picnic sites, roadways, bridges, and a perimeter woven fence. The CCC also helped with the Camp Kiwanis and provided equipment for bridge and roadwork. The CCC camp was originally located about 1/2

²⁴ Ibid, 25.

²⁵ Kiwanis International, *Kiwanis Legacy*. Viewable at: <http://66.29.197.98/WhoWeAre/KiwanisLegacy/tabid/131/Default.aspx>.

²⁶ Hill County Bicentennial Commission, *Grit, Guts & Gusto "A History of Hill County"*, Bear Paw Printers, 1976, 194.

²⁷ Hill County Bicentennial Commission, 380.

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mile north of Camp Kiwanis. When the CCC camp closed in 1937, the City of Havre, Havre Chamber of Commerce, and Hill County officials secured the materials from four of the CCC buildings. These materials were later used to constructed two dormitories, a dining room, four smaller three-room buildings, and a caretaker's cottage located north of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall at Camp Kiwanis. The building improvements allowed the Kiwanis to provide housing and entertainment for 200 boys and girls.

Several clubs became involved with the camp and the Kiwanis Meeting Hall through the years and helped provide numerous items such as dining room chairs, kitchen equipment, and utensils. The Rotary Club involvement started after their youth camp burned down, which was located at the bottom of Rotary Hill, approximately 2 miles north of Camp Kiwanis. Other groups, in addition to the Kiwanis and Rotary Club that use the park and Kiwanis Meeting Hall included the Lion's Club, Methodist Men's Group, F.A. Buttrey's Relyon Club, Boy & Girl Scouts of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion. The camp presently receives assistance from federal and state agencies including the National Park Service, Montana State Park Board, and the State Fish and Game Commission.

Many religious groups from the area used the Kiwanis Meeting Hall and adjacent facilities for conducting bible camps. These included the Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and the Salvation Army. However, as other buildings were constructed, the Kiwanis Meeting Hall was utilized less and less for meeting related activities. It was eventually transformed into a non-denominational chapel complete with pews around 1938; it was used for church services and weddings for many years, until 1960.

Currently, the Kiwanis Meeting hall is not used due to many needed repairs. The pool was filled-in in 1996 and only remnants of it remain on the site. None of the original CCC buildings remain. Through the years several recent buildings have been added to the Beaver Creek Campground, north of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall.

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall played a crucial role in the history of the Beaver Creek County Park and its development as a major recreational site for thousands to enjoy. The Park facilities have evolved from this single building constructed during the Depression. It was constructed by the Kiwanis, volunteers and businesses who donated time and material for the use and enjoyment of the children of the city of Havre and Hill County.

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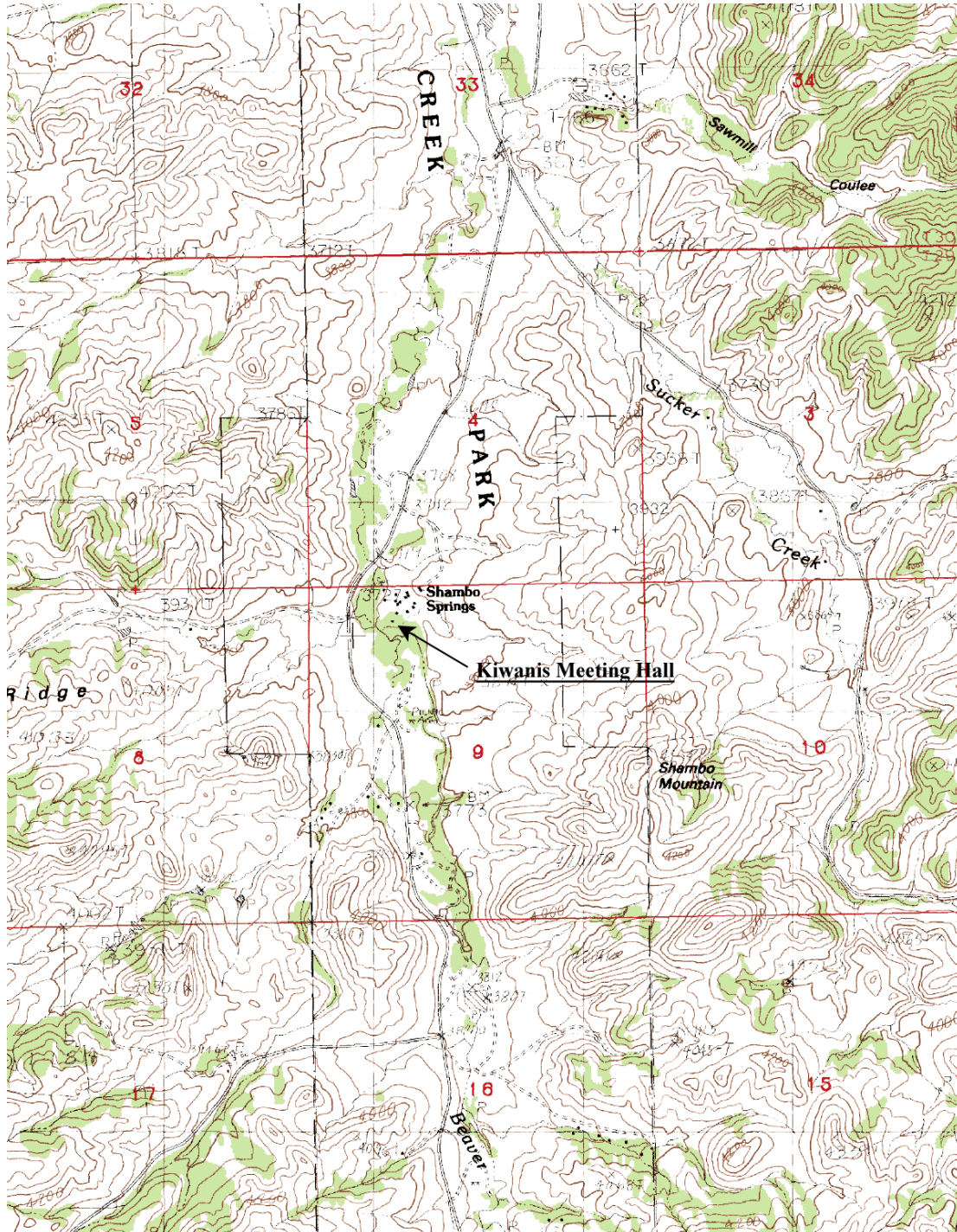
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Topographic Map



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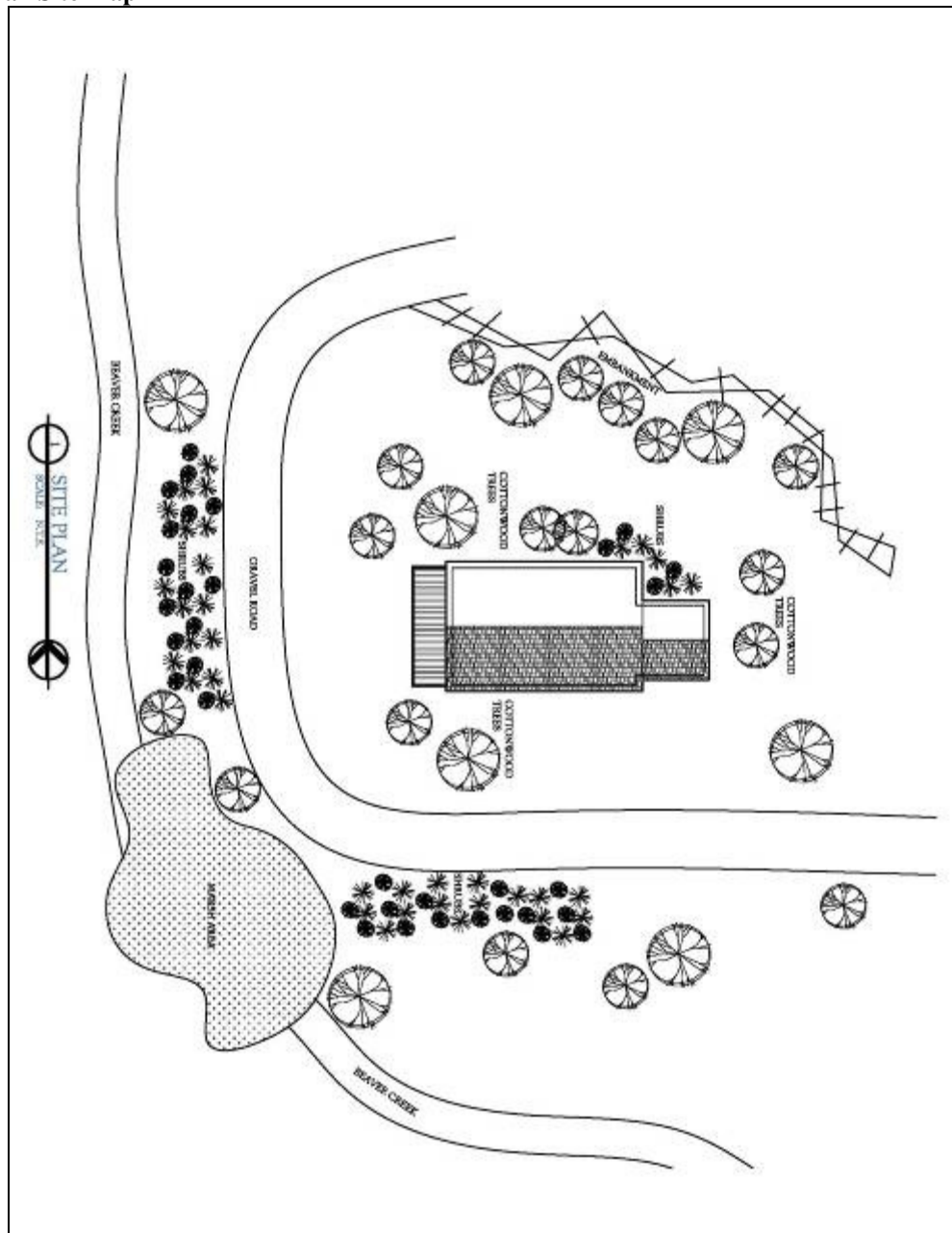
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Kiwanis Meeting Hall Site Map



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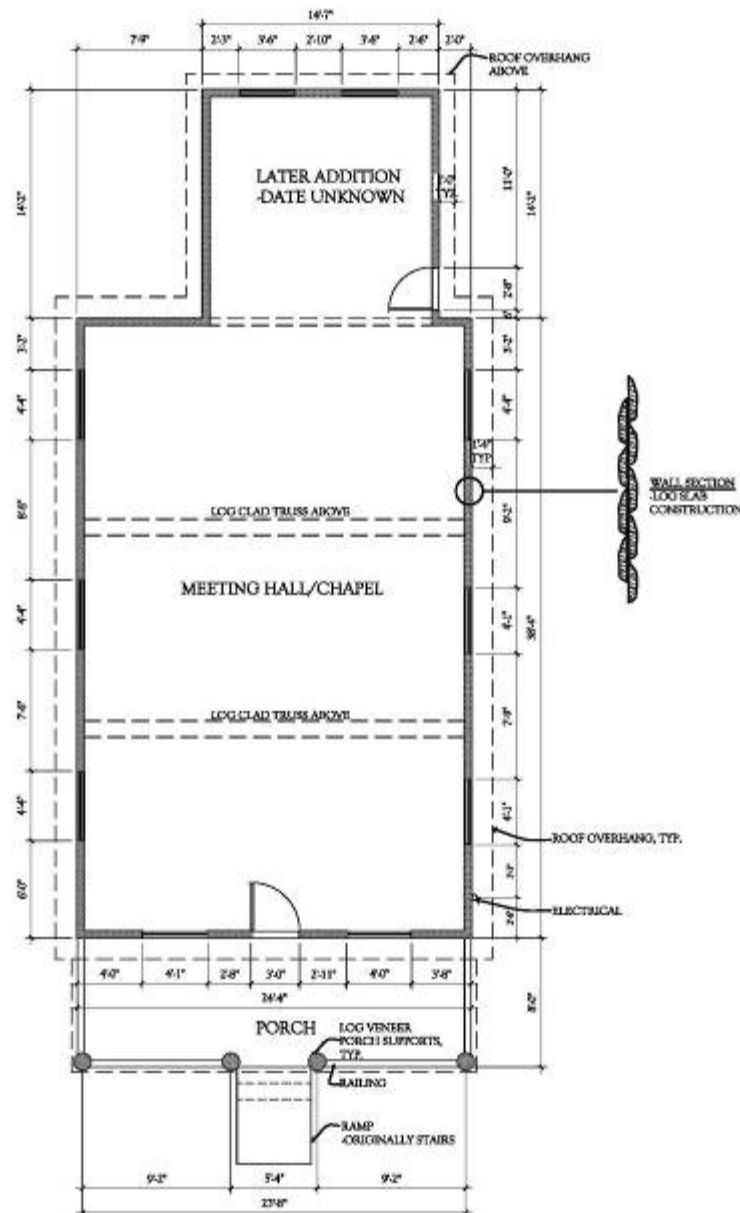
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Kiwanis Meeting Hall Floor Plan



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Photographs

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Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

In accordance with the March 2005 Photo Policy expansion, the photos that accompany this nomination are printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, using a Hewlett Packard 100 gray photo cartridge. This combination of paper and inks is included on the NR's list of "Acceptable Ink and Paper combinations for Digital Images." The images are also recorded on an archival CD-R with a resolution at least 1200x1800 pixels, 300 dpi in "true color" 24-bit format.

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Becki Miller

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, west elevation, view to the east

Photograph Number: 0001

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Becki Miller

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, south elevation, view to the southwest

Photograph Number: 0002

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Becki Miller

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, north elevation, view to the southeast

Photograph Number: 0003

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Wade Bitz

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, east elevation, view to the west

Photograph Number: 0004

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Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall
County and State: Hill County, Montana
Photographer: Wade Bitz
Date of Photograph: April 2008
Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission
Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, west elevation, view to the northeast
Photograph Number: 0005

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall
County and State: Hill County, Montana
Photographer: Becki Miller
Date of Photograph: April 2008
Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission
Description and view of camera: Close up of interior trusses
Photograph Number: 0006

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall
County and State: Hill County, Montana
Photographer: Wade Bitz
Date of Photograph: April 2008
Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission
Description and view of camera: close up of concrete "bucket" piers
Photograph Number: 0007

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall
County and State: Hill County, Montana
Photographer: Emil DonTigny
Date of Photograph: circa 1940
Location of original negative: From *When You Come West You Will See Montana* by F.F. Runkel, Maurice C. Wright, and E. Dontigny, circa 1940.
Description and view of camera: Historic photograph of Kiwanis Meeting hall, west elevation, view to the east.
Photograph Number: 0008

Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall
County and State: Hill County, Montana
Photographer: Nell Bowery
Date of Photograph: 1930
Location of original negative: Havre City Chamber of Commerce
Description and view of camera: Pool constructed same year as Kiwanis Meeting Hall, no longer extant, view to the south
Photograph Number: 0009

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Name: Aerial of Camp Kiwanis

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Larry Obie

Date of Photograph: Unknown

Location of original negative: Havre City Chamber of Commerce

Description and view of camera: Aerial, Kiwanis Meeting Hall in Trees on Right Side of Photograph.

Photograph Number: 0010

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Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Photograph No. 0001 Kiwanis Meeting Hall, west elevation, view to the east



Photograph No. 0002 Kiwanis Meeting Hall, south elevation, view to the southwest

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Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Photograph No. 0003 Kiwanis Meeting Hall, north elevation, view to the southeast



Photograph No. 0004 Kiwanis Meeting Hall, east elevation, view to the west

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Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Photograph No. 0005 Kiwanis Meeting Hall, west elevation, view to the northeast



Photograph No. 0006 Close up of interior trusses

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Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Photograph No. 0007 close up of concrete "bucket" piers



Photograph No. 0008 Historic photograph of Kiwanis Meeting hall, west elevation, view to the east.

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Photograph No. 0009 Pool constructed same year as Kiwanis Meeting Hall, no longer extant, view to the south



Photograph No. 00010 Aerial, Kiwanis Meeting Hall in Trees on Right Side of Photograph.